

THE Organized FARMER

PRODUCTION FOR THE MARKET

In a recent interview with Dr. Travis Manning of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Alberta, the future of the small producer in the North American agricultural picture was discussed. Here are some of Dr Manning's observations.

Question: Dr. Manning, will the practice of contract production become more widespread in future?

Answer: I believe there is a trend in this direction, yes.

Question: Just what do we mean by the term contract production?

Answer: By this, we mean the individual producer of an agricultural product operates with a contract to a processor, or retail outlet, to the effect that he, the producer, will supply the product in the amounts, and at the time specified or arranged, at a guaranteed or adjusted price. Today, this practice is well established in the broiler industry, where nearly all broilers sold through retail chain stores are raised under contract.

Question: What is behind this trend?

Answer: I think producers gain quite a bit from such an arrangement. There are quite a few available risks involved in production which have little to do with actual husbandry. Price fluctuations, surpluses, marketing pressures from competing commodities all

affect the management of production. These risks can be reduced through contracts.

Question: You mean by gearing production to demand?

Answer: Yes. A seller, let's say a super market, needs a year around supply. The producer needs access to a market. Right now, the producing and selling situations are not co-ordinated. So, we have a cyclical condition resulting, with producers alternately undershooting, or overshooting the market.

Take beef, for example. Let's say we have a given level of beef consumption, which we do have here. In the foreseeable future, producers will tend to over-produce for that given market. At

the same time, if there had been a contract production situation, the sellers could have picked those who would produce beef. In this way, production could be made to match the available market for it. These market risks can largely be reduced through contract production.

Question: Does this not suggest that some form of countervailing power would be needed to protect producers from being exploited by those in a position to grant or withhold contracts?

Answer: This is looking a long way ahead. However, I believe that some form of bargaining association of producers of a commodity would have to be created to apportion the available contracts, and to bargain for the producer's return from the sale of his product.

Question: Why would not the chain stores go directly into the production of foodstuffs, thus avoiding the question of the control of production entirely?

Answer: This is not to likely, because of the need which I believe exists for vested interest in the biological processes involved in food production. A per-

(Continued on Page 2)

Memorial to Messrs.

George E. Church & Wilfred J. Hoppins

U.F.A. officials have been approached by many members of the organization as well as business associates and friends of the late George E. Church, former President of United Farmers of Alberta Co-op., and the late Wilfred J. Hoppins, former General Manager of U.F.A. Co-op., regarding the establishing of a joint memorial to these two farm leaders. Realizing the great esteem in which these two gentlemen were held by members of U.F.A. and by many in the co-operative movement throughout Canada, U.F.A. officials would be grateful for suggestions as to the form this memorial should take, how funds might be raised, etc. One suggestion that has been made by many friends, and a project which was close to the hearts of these men, is Gold Eye Lake Camp. A new permanent building at the Camp, a fund to bring in a distinguished speaker each year or a fund to care for the expenses of special seminars for young people, are but a few of the ideas that might be considered in connection with Gold Eye Camp.

Please send your ideas to U.F.A. Co-op., 1119-1st Street S.E., Calgary, as soon as possible so a decision can be made and the project got under way without undue delay.

'CDA TEEN CAMPS SET

A series of five FU & CDA Teen Camps have been tentatively scheduled for this summer. Four of the camps will be held at Gold-Eye Lake. Fairview College will be the site of the fifth camp.

Theme of the camps this year will be "Let's discuss our role in today's community as young adults". A registration fee of \$25 for each student includes transportation, room and board. The Teen Camp program is for young people between the ages of 16 and 21.

Last year, FU & CDA had 250 young people at Teen Camps. These camps were in addition to the FWUA Citizenship Camps which were also held last summer at Gold Eye. A Teen Camp was

held at Fairview as well last year.

Program content this year includes: Community Organization; Co-operatives — Purpose, History, and Philosophy; The Credit Union Movement; Leadership Skills; You and Your Friends; Community and Farm Organization; Conservation; Highway Safety; Citizenship; Careers in Agriculture and Co-operatives; Further Education and Recreation.

Transportation will be provided from central points to the camps, and return. Students will be responsible for getting to the central pick-up points. These will be announced later as arrangements are finalized.

Tentative dates for the Teen Camps are as follows:

GOLD EYE — July 5th to 11th
FUA Districts 6, 7, and 8

FAIRVIEW — July 5th to 11th
FUA Districts 1 and 2

GOLD EYE — July 12th to 18th
FUA Districts 11, 12, 13 and 14

GOLD EYE — July 19th to 25th
FUA Districts 9 and 10

GOLD EYE — July 26th to
August 1st

FUA Districts 3, 4, and 5

A brochure containing scheduled dates, central pick-up points, programs, etc. will be mailed out as soon as they can be prepared.

ESKIMOS PRAISE CO-OPERATIVES

Delegates from 16 co-operatives presented reports at the first conference of Eskimo co-operatives held in Frobisher Bay early last year. Here's what a few of them had to say about the benefits that co-operatives have brought to their respective communities.

Henry Annatuk, Port Burwell Co-operative, N.W.T.

Now we know we can make a living by staying and working through the co-operatives. In the first year of the co-operative a freezer was set up and the fish were caught and brought to the freezer. We have a co-op store now. The women are making mats and also there are carvings by men and women. We were going to move to the Labrador Coast but we do not think of this move anymore.

Oshawetuk, West Baffin Co-op, Cape Dorset, N.W.T.

Before we got the co-operative started at Cape Dorset, we suffered. People did not even have ammunition; they did not have lumber to make kayaks. The be-

ginning was when we started making stone carvings. Now we are making prints which are much higher priced than carvings. We have better clothes now because we can make money from our prints. We have something to live on besides the family allowance. Pauloosie Seuk, Povungnituk Co-operative, Quebec.

People don't realize what they can do before starting a co-operative. We made mistakes but when you make mistakes you begin to learn. In the beginning we started shop with carvings. Now we have two shops—a carving shop and a print shop—and also a warehouse. We have a credit union, too, but we don't expect to be rich right away.

FRAUDULENT SCHEME

A federal grand jury indicted Dr. Herman Taller recently on charges that his best-selling book, Calories Don't Count, was part of a fraudulent weight-reducing scheme perpetrated across the United States.

Hog Fund Drive "Kicked Off"

A start has been made in the gathering of a fund to pay for the Alberta farm organizations' Hog Marketing Board educational program. To kick off the fund, both the FUA President, and the Past President donated "one pig for the plebiscite".

The fund drive, using the slogan "Give a Hog For Freedom", gives anyone who wants to, a chance to actively participate. "All of our members who believe in the principle of a marketing board, and who want to contribute toward setting one up, can contribute to this fund," said President Paul Babey as he "Kicked in his Pig".

Smiling a bit grimly, Ed Nelson commented that a substantial amount of money and effort is needed if the educational campaign is to reach all hog producers.

He made his contribution saying he hoped it would be matched "Many times over". Mr. Nelson and Mr. Babey each contributed the proceeds from one market hog to the fund.

Donations should be sent to the Hog Marketing Committee, Farmers' Union of Alberta, 9934-106 Street, Edmonton.

EVENT TO GO AGAIN IN '65

Ice has already been tentatively booked for the 1965 edition of the FUA Curling Championship. Jerry Hutchinson, who was in charge of the March 10-11 event, won by Art Cullen rink of Olds (see the March 13 O-F, was very pleased. "With a few minor changes, this is going to be a real popular annual event." He predicted.

Forty four curling enthusiasts from 11 FUA Districts took part. Quite a large gallery of spectators saw some fine curling as the districts battled for the very handsome Wheat Pool Trophy. At the end of the first three draws Tuesday evening, the first four teams had been eliminated from further competition in the "Double Knock-out" affair. Districts 9 and 6 were all done by 3 p.m. By 5:30 p.m., Districts 14 and 11 dropped out.

That evening, the curlers were treated to a banquet. Paul Babey spoke, congratulating the successful teams, and consoling the losers.

By evening of the next day, all but two rinks were eliminated. Art Cullen met the George Borle rink from St. Albert in the final at 7 p.m. The four men from District 10 were in control all the way, winning 13-4. They were immediately awarded their trophies by Jack Parks of the Wheat Pool. Many of the contestants who stayed until the end said they intended to try get into the final next year. Most said they expected stiffer opposition in their home districts next time.



EXPERIENCE TELLS: Under the watchful eyes of assembled experts, Minister of Agriculture Harry Strom (centre) and FUA President Paul Babey (left front) prepare to toss out the first stones officially opening the first annual FUA Provincial Curling Championships. This ceremony took place Tuesday morning, March 10 at the Edmonton Sportex. It was, Mr. Strom said, the second curling stone he had ever thrown in his life. "I've got you beat then," said Mr. Babey as he threw his rock "This is my third!" Both shots were short of the hog line.

FARMERS UNION
OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 St., Edmonton, Alta.
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(Continued from Page 1)

son who has a stake in the successful outcome of a broiler flock, for instance, will be more concerned with proper husbandry than someone without this vested interest.

Question: What is to stop a food chain from investing in a production set-up, and paying the chap who handles it on the basis of production efficiency?

Answer: This again is not likely when you remember that the return on investment from such an operations would be much less than that available to the same capital invested elsewhere. One of reasons for this low return on investment in agricultural production is the price of land today. Land is one of our last big speculative reasons for this low return on lative areas. The price of land responds quite readily to outside influence. The Russian wheat deal raised asking prices for land in western Canada almost immediately. As long as there are enough people interested in investing in land as a speculative venture, prices will stay up, and returns on production investments will remain low.

Question: What implications does all this have for the producer of tomorrow? Is there going to be a place for the small operator? How would marketing boards fit into the picture?

Answer: First, tomorrow's producer is going to have to have access to more capital. And he is going to have to become a first rate manager. The concept of the family farm will largely be submerged in the agro-business concept.

As for the small independent producer, in the context of this century, I think he is here to stay. The key factor here is going to be capital. This may in many cases be corporate capital. Perhaps the future of the family type farm can be found here but set up as a family owned corporation.

In my opinion, marketing boards are only a step along the way. For the producer to obtain the kind of countervailing power that he needs, to deal with the giant food chains, some type of bargaining association is desirable. The tendency in the future will be to make supplies match demands more closely. This could be achieved through contract production. As for price, we must never forget that the person who ultimately sets the value of a commodity is Mrs. Consumer.

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F.W.U.A. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shaping the Future

By Mrs. Russell Johnston

As your president, it is my responsibility with the help of the FWUA executive and board to carry out the mandates of the 1963 convention. Acting in ac-

cordance with policies established over the fifty years of our existence, we will carry on the study program and we will co-ordinate the work of the FWUA during the coming year.

As MEMBERS it is your responsibility to carry your share of the load in your FWUA locals, your joint FUA locals, in your Sub-district and in your District. In the final analysis, you the members decide the future of the FWUA.

The FWUA has, for the past fifty years, played a very vital part in the work and achievements of the farm organization. The rural community involving the social and economic position of farm people is changing very rapidly. We, as farm women must understand the factors bringing about these changes, and we must do our part to shape the rural community of the future to ensure that farm and all rural people may share the better things of life.

The following are, I believe, the five main responsibilities of the FWUA for the coming year.

1. Through study, broaden your horizons. Our locals should provide "continuing education". Such education may range through many fields such as; (a) our needs

as homemakers, (b) the economic position of the farm family, (c) the health and education of our families, (d) the health, education, and welfare needs of Albertans and of all Canadians (e) our responsibility as Candians to the underdeveloped nations of the world, (f) a study of our responsibility and oppirtunity as women, through the ACWW, to better the position of women throughout the world, (g) how to assure world peace.

2. Formulate FWUA Policy. As a result of our studies we must keep our policy up to date through resolutions to FWUA Conferences, District Conventions, and our annual FWUA Convention.

3. Bring our aims and policy before Government, whether municipal, provincial, or federal in an effort to bring about beneficial changes.

4. Consider our position in farm organizations. Over fifty years ago, Alberta farm men recognized women as persons even before the women of Canada were given the vote. Most of the women active in farm organization today have at best only vague memories of the suffragette era. By the time we were twenty-one, most of us had the vote. With that vote, we must accept responsibility. Our task during the coming year will be to consider the position the FWUA must assume within any proposed new farm organization to best enable us to fulfill our responsibilities as women.

5. Do our part to build the Jr. FUA. (a) Aim to establish an active organization in every sub-district. (b) Serve as adult ad-

visors. (c) Help to establish worthy aims and objectives for our junior locals, building on sound moral principles, (d) Help with the training programs in the Teen Camps at Gold-Eye Lake or Farview, and with Junior Training Programs in the Sub-districts.

During the coming year, I and other members of the executive will enlarge upon these responsibilities in the Organized Farmer, at the District Conventions, and the FWUA Conferences. I hope each and every local will do its part during the year, and that your delegates will come to the 1964 convention prepared to make further progress as we have done in past years.

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ONE HARD PUSH TO THE TOP

It is within our grasp! We could do it this month! If we try!

Our membership goals, set last November, can still be reached. The objective is coming closer all the time. But time is passing quickly.

At your next meeting, your local could take the necessary step which will put us over the top. Get five members to volunteer to sign up two new members each.

That is all it would take!

Surprising? Too easy, you say? Not at all!

Remember, we have some 700 locals throughout the province. We need to sign up a little over 6,700 unit members to reach a grand total of 30,000. That would represent about 65,000 people! Worth the effort, don't you think?

Thirty thousand farm units would represent very nearly 50 per cent of all Alberta farmers. Ten years ago we would have needed about 40,000 units to reach that 50 per cent mark. Today, there are fewer farmers. And more reason for them to belong to the F.U.A.

A lot of farmers are waiting to be asked to join. Don't ask them why they are waiting. Just ask them to join, and invite them out to your next local meeting.

Nearly 24,000 farmers have already joined up this year. Is there something odd about them? Or are the others just waiting for a little encouragement?

To reach last year's total membership, each local need only sign up five members. To reach our 30,000 objective for this membership year, each local should try to add ten or more members to its list.

Here are the unit membership totals, district by

district, as tabulated on February 29. Where does your district stand?

	1962-63	As at Feb. 29/64
District 1	1877	1545
District 2	1722	1530
District 3	1355	1306
District 4	1950	1611
District 5	1867	1736
District 6	2295	2032
District 7	1469	1434
District 8	2404	2194
District 9	2188	2022
District 10	3355	2899
District 11	1167	1079
District 12	2249	2002
District 13	882	834
District 14	1267	991
TOTAL	26097	23215

Armstrong Re-elected

Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, a former President of the FWUA and FUA Executive Member, and presently a member of the CBC Board of Directors, was re-elected president of the Alberta Council on Child and Family Welfare at the Council's annual meeting in Calgary February 21. Mrs. Russell Johnston, FWUA president, succeeded Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite as First Vice-President.

All organizational vice presidents were re-elected. Mrs. Johnston reported on FWUA activities for the past year in the welfare field. Plans for the annual banquet on April 3 were set in motion.

The Alberta Council on Child and Family Welfare is intended to co-ordinate the efforts of various organizations interested in the welfare field. These organizations include the FWUA, Home and School Association, Indian Association, recreational groups, Church Women's groups, and many others.

Mrs. W. L. Baker of Calgary represents the FWUA at the Council's monthly meetings.

successful workshop on parliamentary procedure was held in the Tomahawk School Auditorium on Feb. 12. Mrs. Florence Sissons of Lacombe was the main speaker. The local ladies served a buffet lunch.

Burns Company Control Sought

An un-named syndicate is bidding for control of Canada's second largest meat packing company. Shareholders of Burns and Co. Ltd, a Calgary based firm with annual sales of \$200 million, are being offered \$11.25 a share, to a limit of 300,000 shares. This would be 40 per cent of Burns stock.

The bid for effective control of Burns came shortly after the Canadian Government announced that no action would be taken on the report of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission investigation of the packing industry. The Commission had investigated the acquisition of Wilsil Ltd. and Calgary Packers Ltd. by Canada Packers Ltd.

The Commission recommended that Canada Packers should divest itself of the two smaller firms, or steps should be taken to prevent further centralization of the meat packing industry in Canada. The Government claimed there was not enough evidence of restrictive trade practices in the industry to warrant action.

It is estimated that there are about 3,000 Burns shareholders. The company was formed in 1890 by Patrick Burns. It operates seven packing houses across Canada, two canning operations, 18 wholesale branches, and 11 ice cream and milk processing plants.

Report From Tomahawk

Tomahawk FWUA local 508 reports that at its February meeting held in the home of Olive Case, nine members heard a report on the Sub-district team meeting held in Stony Plain February 4, and attended by the Tomahawk Local president and secretary.

The local also reports that a

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Co-operative Program For West Indies Too

More and more Canadians are finding the West Indies to be a holiday paradise—friendly, interesting and different.

But for the people who live there, many of them descendants of plantation slaves, life is no holiday. This is particularly true of people in the "Little Eight" islands, which remain unconnected after the break-up of the Federation of the West Indies.

Canada is helping in the West Indies through the Foreign Aid Office—building schools, organizing educational services, constructing deep sea harbours, drilling wells. But if progress is to be meaningful and permanent, people must learn to help themselves—both individually and co-operatively. At the close of the March campaign, Co-Ever expects to be in a position to go forward with its plans for starting a practical program of co-operative extension in the West Indies in support of programs already in operation.

GIVE A HOG FOR FREEDOM

Nothing worth while ever comes cheap! Money is needed by your Hog Committee to pay expenses, and costs of reaching 30,000 or more hog producers in Alberta, with the marketing board message. The Hog Committee's message is simple:

"A hog marketing board is the best alternative to the present marketing situation, and it can keep the market place open to those who want to produce hogs in the future."

IF YOU AGREE with the marketing board principle, make a donation to the

**Hog Marketing Board Fund,
c/o Farmers' Union of Alberta
9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton**

If you can, give the proceeds from a hog to preserve your freedom to market your produce.

FWUA Brief To Provincial Government

By Francis Hicks

The FWUA Brief was presented to the Cabinet Members by Mrs. R. Johnston on Friday, February 7th, 1964, with Mrs. Hallum, Mrs. James, Mrs. Freadrich, Mrs. Holt and Mrs. Hicks present.

Cabinet Ministers present were Premier Manning, Hon. Dr. Ross, Minister of Health, Hon. H. E. Strom, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. A. O. Aalborg, Minister of Education, Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, Hon. A. R. Patrick, Minister of Industry and Development, Hon. N. A. Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests, Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. A. Holowach, Provincial Secretary, Hon. F. Colburne, Minister of Public Works, Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Public Welfare, and Hon. E. W. Hinman, Provincial Treasurer.

Mrs. Johnston expressed the thanks of our organization for the grant of \$500 to send our ACWW delegates to the conference, for naming FWUA members to various committees, for including our past president Mrs. Braithwaite in the Agricultural Seminar at Red Deer, and for consideration each year of the resolutions carried at our annual convention.

AGE FOR LEAVING SCHOOL
(FWUA suggests it be raised from 15 to 16 years.)

Mr. Aalborg thought this would be a major change — quite a step to take but thought it was definitely a good idea and worth giving careful study to by both the teachers and the school boards.

PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION RESULTS
(F.W.'s asked that they be sent out earlier.)

Mr. Aalborg said they were trying their best to get the grade XII results out by August First, which he felt was ample time, but there was such a volume of them and getting more as time went on. Grade IX should be out by the middle of August. But the Department would keep trying to find better and speedier methods.

CHRONIC HOSPITALS AND AUXILIARY HOSPITALS

Dr. Ross outlined plans so far for the nursing homes. How districts and boards were set up. Assistance available etc.

BUILDINGS AND STAFF FOR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT

Dr. Ross thought two or three institutions in Canada would be ample and that since construction and staff for this type of institution were high that Alberta would be better to send their

patients to another province for the highly specialized care they needed.

MENTAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PEACE RIVER AREA

Dr. Ross said plans were underway now. Location not definite yet. Many considerations — especially area to be serviced and nearness to doctors (specialized doctors).

BLOOD TESTS

(requested that pre-marital blood test reports, including blood-type, be issued to the couple before wedding)

Dr. Ross said resolution called for two tests — one at the provincial laboratory and one at the Red Cross House. Quite hard under the present set up but will look into this thoroughly.

ALLERGIC TO ANTIBIOTICS
(resolution asked that persons affected be issued special markings)

Dr. Ross said that doctors are becoming alarmed and suggested that we write to the Canadian Medical Association, Alberta Division, and send our resolution.

RELIGIOUS LAWS GOVERNING ADOPTION

Mr. Halmrast assured the delegation that new legislation would be presented at the next session.

PROPERTY LAWS AFFECTING WOMEN

Mr. Manning assured the delegation that the government had been studying these for years and suggested that our organization could certainly help by encouraging our members to make Wills.

CAR TRAIN ACCIDENTS
(flashing light mounted on Locomotives asked for)

Mr. Patrick said they expected this would be enforced. Mr. Taylor has been asking for this for a number of years and asked that we write to Reg Clark, Secretary, Alberta Chamber of Commerce, sending a copy of our resolution. That there could possibly be an emergency meeting with the Transport Commission.

Canada's Centenary was discussed and Mr. Holowach, Provincial Secretary, outlined plans so far and said that the government would be dealing with the municipalities. A museum in Edmonton would be a provincial government project. And both conferences held in Ottawa had suggestions like the FWUA request.

1. The name of Dr. Irene Parlbey be placed in Alberta's Agricultural Hall of Fame.

2. The planting of trees — certainly a good suggestion and one which would undoubtedly be done.
3. Establishment of two arbore-tums in Alberta. Considera-

tion had been given to this idea also.

4. Two historical museums — Glenbow foundation going ahead in Calgary and something will be done by the provincial government in Edmonton.
5. Scholarships — Federal Government was doing this.
6. Some type of Centennial medal had been discussed at the conference too.

Training for social workers was discussed, and Mr. Manning stated there was no definite decision about a course at Alberta University. They would hesitate to

add any more courses due to crowded conditions and shortage of professors. Short courses and in service training is offered for Department of Welfare staff. Heaters in School Buses — Still being tested.

The world's first cow hotel, accommodating 1,500 cattle, is being built in Bonn, West Germany. Eighty farmers who haven't been able to find enough hired help to look after their livestock, raised \$750,000 for the "Cowtel" which they plan to run as a joint stock company.

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Growing Popularity With FUA Membership

Among the many services available to FUA members is one which comes into its own particularly at this time of the year. This is the FUA Accounting Service.

Last year, 484 farmers took advantage of the service. According to Joan Sutherland, who is in charge of this service, 210 returns have already been received. With March and April always the big months still to come, Mrs. Sutherland expects the number using the service will jump well over last year's total.

What service is available? Just about anything pertaining to farm income tax, says Mrs. Sutherland. Depending on the state of the individual farmers books, the cost

is about \$12.00 for a complete return. Any further follow-ups are free of charge. Advice is free, except during the mad month of April.

"We can help farmers answer questions they may get from the government's income tax department," says Mrs. Sutherland. "We can make out net worth statements, or give any advice or service which might be needed."

Accounting Service is available to FUA members during the entire year. Anyone wishing to use the service, or any local wishing further information on farm accounting, should get in touch with the FUA ACCOUNTING SERVICE, 9934-106 Street, EDMONTON.